

There are three important reasons to keep the Morse code requirements for all License classes.

- 1) Intelligibility for International Use: Has anyone had difficulty talking on a telephone to someone with a strong accent? Some people of China, India, Germany, Scotland, and many others can be very hard to understand to my ears. Even those whose native tongue is English, such as the British, and a few from Texas (Hi), cannot be fully understood unless I make them spell the words or repeat themselves frequently. That same conversation when translated into Morse code however can be understood perfectly.
- 2) Low Power Operation: Morse code or Keyed Continuous-Wave radio transmissions allows the most (or many times the only) copy with weak signal power. Radio signals of just a few mill-watts can be regularly heard round the world.
- 3) Emergency Communication: In the event of natural and terrorist disasters, a horn can be blasted, a signal mirror flashed, or a collapsed building wall thumped. A simple sparking of a wire across a flashlight battery can send understandable signals over a wide range of radio frequencies. Do we still remember the P.O.W. who sent the word "TORTURE" by blinking his eyes on the video tape from his captors? It was only a radio operator who recognized this. Or the ship at sea, when its satellite equipment was damaged in a storm, contacted an amateur radio operator with low-tech Morse code to advise the Coast Guard of its status and position. How much more valuable to society will future radio operators be if the FCC continues to require the knowledge of the International Morse code for all amateur radio operator licenses. If the FCC won't, who will?